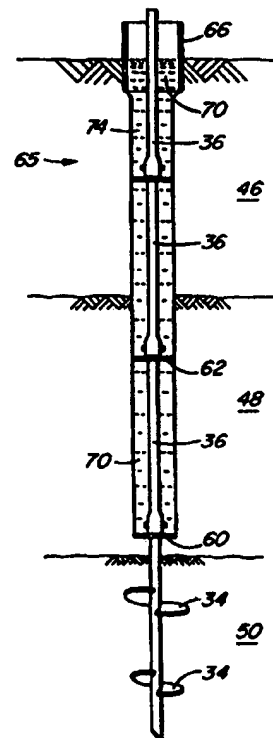




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/CA96/00868 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 20 December 1996 (20.12.96)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/577,967 26 December 1995 (26.12.95) US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> VICKARS DEVELOPMENTS CO. LTD. [CA/CA]; 6220 - 9th Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia V3N 2T6 (CA).  <b>(72) Inventors:</b> VICKARS, Robert, Alfred; 6220 - 9th Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia V3N 2T6 (CA). VICKARS, Jeremiah, Charles, Tilney; 1430 Nanaimo Street, New West- minster, British Columbia V3M 2G4 (CA). TOEBOSCH, Gary; 8616 Tulsy Crescent West, Surrey, British Columbia V3W 7P7 (CA).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> MANNING, Gavin, N.; Oyen Wiggs Green & Mutala, 480 - The Station, 601 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1G1 (CA).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING PILES IN-SITU  <b>(57) Abstract</b> <p>A method for making piles and apparatus for practising the method of the invention are disclosed. The invention may be used to support the foundation of a structure, such as a building. The method draws soil displacing means (60) on a shaft (39) down through a body of soil (46) by turning a screw (34) at the lower end of the shaft. The soil displacing means forces soil out of a cylindrical region (74) around the shaft. The cylindrical region is filled with grout (70) which encapsulates and strengthens the shaft. The grout may be fed by gravity from a bath of grout around the shaft. The soil displacement means has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the screw and may be a disk extending in a plane generally perpendicular to the shaft.</p>		



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